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Description of a new species of *Brana* Walker (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, Ophiderinae) from Thailand

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Abstract A new species of the genus *Brana* Walker, *B. cara* sp. n., is described from Thailand. This is the second member of the genus.

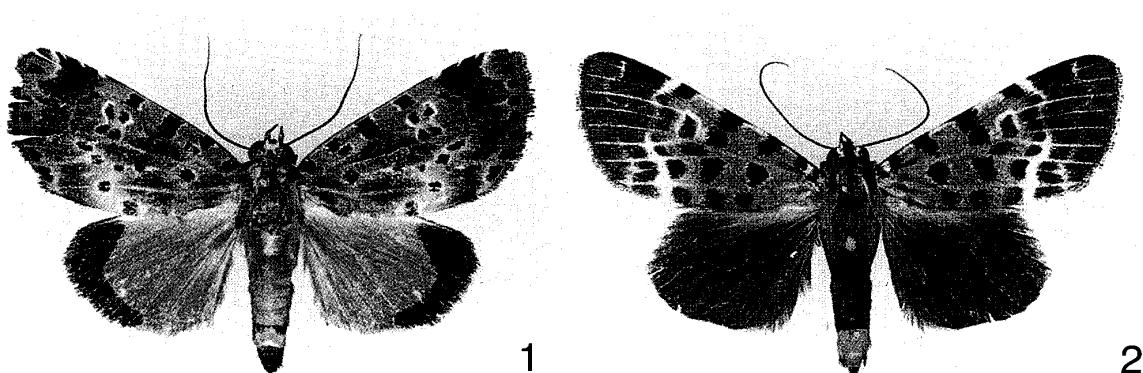
Key words *Brana*, *Brana cara*, male genitalia, Thailand, taxonomy.

The genus *Brana* Walker, 1858 ("1857") has been known as monobasic with a monotypical type species *B. calopasa* Walker, 1858 ("1857") from Sri Lanka (Poole, 1989). Hampson (1894) illustrated this characteristic species and added New Guinea to its distributional range. Through the courtesy of Mr Y. Kishida, Tokyo, I had an opportunity to examine some strange specimens of *Brana*-like species from Thailand, which, unlike *calopasa* having pink hindwings, is nevertheless thought to be placed in this genus. I hereinafter describe it as new to science, with a brief description of the male genitalia of *B. calopasa*.

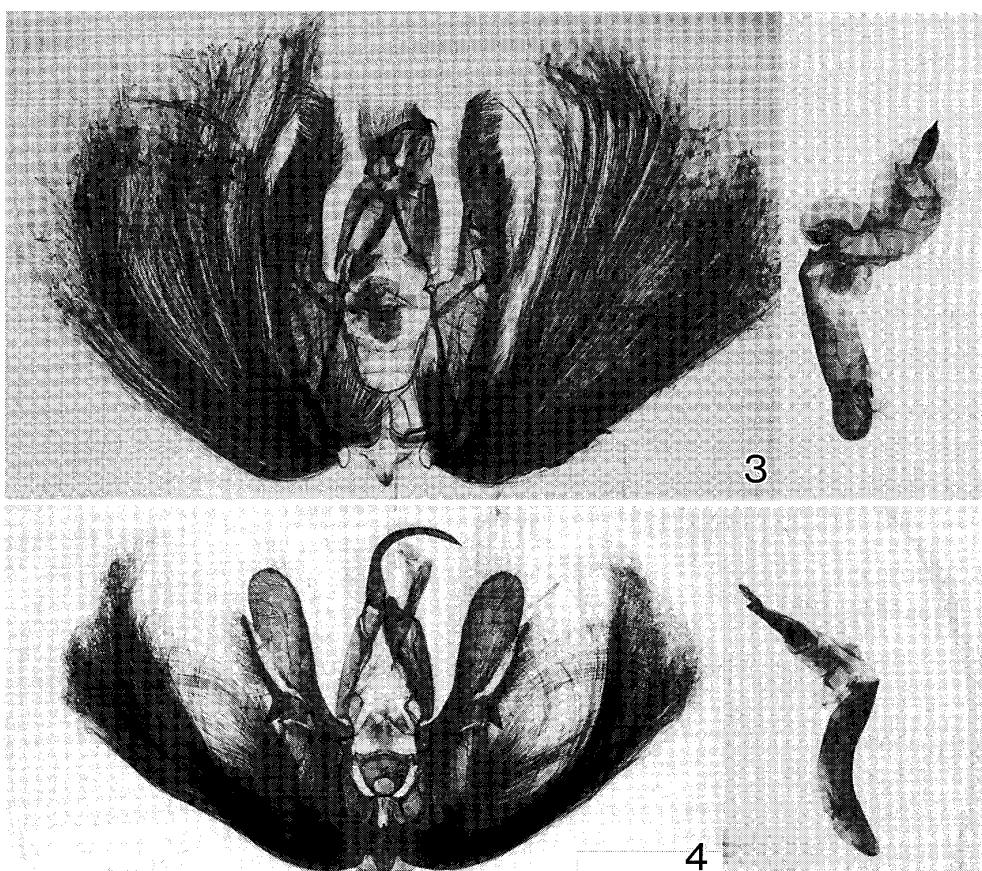
Brana cara sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

♂♀. Length of forewing 22–23 mm, expanse 44–45 mm. Readily distinguished from *B. calopasa* (Fig. 2) by pink hindwings.

Head gray with a dark patch on vertex; 2nd segment of palpus yellow with a black spot on outer side, and 3rd segment black; proboscis yellow. Thorax gray above; legs gray spotted with black, and densely clothed with pink hair on femora. Abdomen pink above excepting black apical segment, and pinkish yellow beneath, spotted with black laterally and medially in ventral surface from 4th to 7th segments, and ringed with black in the anterior part of 8th segment. Forewing a little broader than in *calopasa*, with ground color gray; a black spot at base of costa; two black spots at antemedian area of costa and a black spot below them in cellule 1; a white-edged black square spot at median area of costa, and a small black point



Figs 1–2. *Brana* spp. 1. *B. cara* sp. n., ♂, paratype, Thailand. 2. *B. calopasa* Walker, ♂, Indonesia, Christmas I.



Figs 3-4. Male genitalia of *Brana* spp. 3. *B. cara* sp. n., paratype, Thailand. 4. *B. calopasa* Walker, Indonesia, Christmas I.

at middle of cellule 1; reniform comprised of four white-edged black spots; a white-edged black square spot above reniform on costa; a postmedian series of small black spots strongly excurred beyond cell to cellule 1, then one black spot displaced outwards at vein 1 and again one placed inwards on hind margin; three white specks on costa between postmedian area and subterminal line, which is white, indistinct and diffuse, strongly incurved around apex; a series of black spots before termen; cilia gray with some brown tint. Hindwing pink, bordered with black from apex to just beyond vein 2. Underside. Forewing pink in basal three quarters of cell and below median nervure before postmedian area, with remaining area black. Hindwing pink bordered with black from subbase of costa to vein 2.

Male genitalia (Fig. 3). Uncus not so long, broadened apically before sharply tapered tip; tegumen protruding caudally at shoulder, and gently rolled inwards; valva slender, gradually narrowed towards tip, with costa having a digital projection near middle; juxta wide, its caudal margin excised at middle; saccus short. Aedeagus nearly straight with a small and blunt caudal carina; vesica with a short and stout spine on a sclerite at the tip of distal diverticulum, and with a heavily scobinate oblong sclerite near the base of proximal diverticulum.

Holotype. ♂, Thailand, Wang Chin Pae, 7. iv. 1997, will be deposited in the collection of Laboratory of Insect Systematics, National Institute of Agro-Environmental Sciences, Tsukuba. Paratypes. 9 ♂ 6 ♀, same data as holotype, are in my collection.

Distribution. N. Thailand.

This species is very characteristic in its wing pattern, and there is no similar species within the subfamily.

***Brana calopasa* Walker (Fig. 2)**

Brana calopasa Walker, 1858 ("1857"): 1100; Hampson, 1894: 492, fig. 278; Poole, 1989: 176.

♂♀. Length of forewing 23–26 mm, expanse 45–52 mm. Forewing narrower than in the preceding species and hindwing black excepting white apex.

Male genitalia (Fig. 4). Uncus long and slender, with its tip tapered; tegumen weakly rolled inwards; valva broadened towards roundish tip, with a long sacculus-like projection, which has a wide-based acute process near base; juxta roundish in lower half; saccus short. Aedeagus curved; vesica with a narrow and elongated sclerite.

Specimens examined. 2♂ 2♀, Indonesia, Indian Ocean, Christmas I., 31. xii. 1994. 2♂, Moluccas, Watar I., 1991.

Distribution. Sri Lanka, Moluccas, Indian Ocean, New Guinea.

Acknowledgments

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摘要

タイ北部産の *Brana* 属の 1 新種 (吉本 浩)

属 *Brana* Walker, 1858 は、単一模式による *Brana calopasa* Walker, 1858 ただ 1 種よりなる単形属として知られているが、タイ北部より同属の第 2 の種と考えられる顕著な新種が発見されたので、*Brana cara* sp. n. として記載した。既知の *calopasa* とは、後翅がピンクなので一見して区別できる。またこの機会に、*calopasa* の♂交尾器について簡単に記載した。

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